7/3/64
(Discussed briefly, not read by Mr. Ford)

FVF 7/31/64

Questions on Commission

1 Dallas Morning News of Sat June 27, 1964
a) Results of FBI inquiry on dairy story
b) Where did they get "detailed account of statements which Ruby made" to Warren & Ford on June 7? The story refers to "an informed source." Was this one of the "representatives of the prosecution and defense" who were also present?
What is the Commission's position on this kind of a leak? Any objection, or measures to be taken?

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No agreement yet by Commission's. Chapter 7 not yet received.

2) Note Mr Robert Kennedy's statement: "Ideology in my opinion did not motivate this act." — This emphasizes the seriousness of the question of motivation, & the Commission's treatment of it. How important was his "Marxism"? his "disenchantment" with Russia (dairy)?

Write letter. Was been examined

3) Did Mrs. Earle Cabell see Oswald, or the gun, in the window? U.S. News & World Report 7/6/64 says yes; she has not to our knowledge appeared before the Comm. (She is the wife of the former mayor of Dallas and was in the motorcade.)

OK Could this would have any significance.

4) How significant was Pres. Kennedy's decision to ride in an open car? Does this mean, as U.S. News quotes as White House official "It is not your (Secret Service's) fault"?

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If this is OK

5) Results of today's sessions for Mr. Ray, who is planning to call this afternoon.
a) Mark Lane - transcript today
b) Other matters - list of questions & notes - Staff knows of Mr Ray & Mr Stiles now.

Draft of this should be coming. Has not come yet.

6) To what extent will the final report directly confront and answer specific questions and problems that have been raised by independent writers? The various articles (Sauvage, Dies, Feldman, etc) should be analyzed by the staff, and a checklist prepared to see that all the available sources of information have been utilized, and the questions answered as fully as possible. An example of the desired approach is Jack Stiles' check of list prepared from Mark Lane's first appearance before the Commission. (Eg - Oswald's marksmanship, the "logic" of his conduct, lack of precautions against him.)

Must be worked out Still up in air.

7) Nosenko - he claims to have information particularly on the period from 1/7/60 to 1/30/64, ~~last~~ for which we lack any substantiating sources. The Comm cannot ignore him, nor can it rely on what the FBI or CIA ~~[redacted]~~ say he told them. His deposition should be taken, preferably with Mr. Ford present. The report should emphasize however that its conclusions do not depend on Nosenko's testimony; alternative conclusions should be formulated, if necessary

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Much better draft but LRF must see authority

Call Rankin for Rusk, Hoover, McCone

8) Mexican Period — This will be a choice area for "plot theorists" to play with; the record however is extremely meager in this area. From the viewpoint of the Commissioners there is as yet almost nothing on which to base conclusions as to Oswald's activities during this period; & there has been no tentative draft for this period submitted yet. Suggestions:

a) CIA Report — as much as possible of it should be presented to Commissioners immediately for consideration & evaluation

b) As much testimony as possible should be put into the official record. This would include depositions or affidavits from Pugh, Kline, Russian & Cuban embassy officials & all others; a digest also of the CIA Report.

Letter

Call Rankin for this if and I am soon

c) Drafts — A draft on this period should be submitted as soon as possible

d) Evaluation by Comm. — The events of this period must be a subject of discussion by the Commissioners in an official meeting, with conclusions drawn from all information available.

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Mostly OK

9) Recommendations — The whole section of the Report dealing with future security measures is an area of prime responsibility for the individual Commissioners; their [redacted]

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independence from any of the agencies involved was one of the important factors in their selection. The steps that were taken, & the mistakes that were made, are fairly clear. But the procedures and improvements needed to ensure that such errors do not occur again must be thoroughly discussed and analyzed. There should be at least one, and probably several, official meetings on the record on this topic.

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Comments on Phase II of Rept (pp 71-172)

Page		Incident	Date	Observation
71, line 2	x	Carrying rifle, seen in window	Nov 22	— Are these conclusions overstated? Esp the latter unless treated in pp 38-70.
72-3	x	Baker enters TSBD	Nov 22	— Is there a diagram to clear up these references to ins, etc? — Is the reference to Baker bumping into Truly's back relevant?
73, line 13		Running up stairs - Baker & Truly	Nov 22	— Where is this "hallway"?
73-74		Baker sees Oswald thru door on 2nd floor	Nov 22	— Diagram - is hallway, door, in lunchroom
74	x	"	Nov 22	— Where could Oswald have been coming from? Is there any other explanation? How much time would there have been between Truly & Baker?
75		"		— Which door might have been closing? Office or lunchroom door? Is it relevant? logical?
75		Baker steps to Lee	Nov 22	— Why is reference to empty hands in here? — Does Baker definitely identify this person as Oswald? Why would he have been here?

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Page	Incident	Date	Observation
76, lines 8 9	Baker steps to Lee	Nov 22	— Why refer to empty cans? Is Coca-Cola statement material or substantiated?
76 x	Time for Lee to get to lunchroom	Nov 22	— Last paragraph reads like a detective story - should merely state the question.
77, line 1-2 x	Lee comes down stairs	"	— Isn't this stated too dogmatically? It is only a conclusion, for which there are no witnesses.
77, 1st para. x	"	"	— This whole paragraph is very unclear — How & when did Baker & Truly decide where elevator were? What is relevance of time it took them to get from 1st floor to 2nd floor?
77, 2nd para.	Truly & Baker go up to roof	"	— Did they see or talk to anyone else on way up or down?
78. x	West elevators location	"	— Couldn't Lee have taken elevator from fifth to second floor instead of Coughlin? In view of weak evidence here, is conclusion warranted or necessary? Either way, Lee could have gotten to second floor in time. — Why would elevator not have come down when Truly pushed button earlier?

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Page	Incident	Date	Observation =
71-78 ×	Baker & Truly go up stairs, see O, continue to roof	Nov. 22	This whole incident is poorly told - details are inserted in wrong place (Truly looking up shaft, etc), narrative is not straightforward or logically organized (elevator incidents) - some details seem irrelevant (empty hands, Coke machine)
80	Baker hears Curry on radio	Nov 22	— Why does this show?
81	Time to get from 6th floor window to 2nd floor lunchroom	"	— How long would it take to do this by elevator, all or part way? — Would these times [illegible] anyone else on stairs then? If not, why? If so, did they see Oswald?
81, para 2	Other people near stairway	"	— This paragraph is poorly organized and unclear at first reading (at least).
82, lines 9-11	V. Adams runs down stairs	"	— Result of her timing is not clear from report - was the separating timed later?
84 ×	V. Adams runs down stairs.		— Conclusion from this whole incident is not clear; last sentence irrelevant.

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Page	Incident	Date	Observation
85	Mrs. Reid goes back to office	Nov 22	— Is this office on 2nd floor? Report not clear. — What took it 2 minutes?
86 X-1	Reconstruction of time & events"	Nov 22	— What if any other plausible explanations?
86, first 83 X	Oswald leaves building	Nov 22	— Could picture have been taken at time Oswald left building? How closely has time of this picture been pinpointed?
88	Craig talks to Rowland	"	— Are Rowland previously identified?
89, line 13	Craig's story of talking to Truly	"	— Shouldn't this say "he claims to have..."
88-89 X	Station wagon incident	"	— Does description match Mrs. Paines car? Could she have been there? — Who else could this have been?
91 X	"	"	
90 X	Conflicts with Craig's story	"	— How "clear & convincing" is evidence which places Oswald "either on a bus or in a taxicab"?
91	Warren on ceiling of building	"	— Where was he?
92	Leaving of Building	"	— Was Sawyer timed on this?

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Page		Incident	Date	Observation
93	X	O. reald missing	Nov 22	— How would Truly know so quickly that O was missing? — Incident not too clear in mind.
93-4		Truly tells Fritz that O is missing	"	— Time not clear — some conclusion — why would it not be sooner?
95		"Junior" Jarman sees Duncan	"	— Who is J.J — same as Jarman on p 81? If so, why is he unsure?
100	X	Bus driver's testimony & identification	?	— What & when was the "show-up"? Different than line-up? — Is Truly's description fair to bus driver's testimony?
98-101		Description of streets & bus stops & route	Nov 22	— Not clear or organized. — Would Truly have known bus route, stops?
103	X	Whaley goes to police station	Nov 23	— Why difference in spots & TV cable?
104		Identification by Whaley	Nov 23	— Reference to O's coat too long & irrelevant?
105	X	Trip manifest & time conflict	Nov 22	— Where is "that 15 minutes"? What is probative value of trip manifest — can time be reconciled? Other trips?

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Page		Incident	Date	Observation
105-6	X	Cab ride	Nov 22	— Drop "Biddy" story unless she can be identified and questioned.
106	X	Cab ride	"	— Wrote much too long — just summarize his story.
107		"	"	— Conflicting stories as possibly arranged — probably should be in chronological order as told.
103-110	X	"	"	— Whole story much too wordy and unclear.
109		Os story of cab ride	"	— How do they know this is his first cab ride?
109-10		Reconstructing time for trip	"	— First sentence ("again reconstructing") is awkward as well as bad grammar.
112	X	Police talk to Mrs. Roberts at Bedley Dr	"	— Facts in this incident are not clearly stated.
112	X	Police car on Bedley around 1 P.M.	"	— Is there more on this?

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